

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

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INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS SUMMARY

REF: STATE 124894

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PARA 9 OF REFTEL NOTED THAT SERIES OF CABLES SUMMARIZING US DAILY PRESS ITEMS ON DEFENSE, EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL-RELATED SUBJECTS WAS BEING SUSPENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. WE REGRET THIS DECISION AND STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTINUE THIS EXTREMELY USEFUL SERVICE TO THE FIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN SOME EIGHTEEN
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MONTHS AGO, WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE WASHINGTON PRESS

SUMMARY CABLES IN DETAIL. WE HAVE FOUND THEM INVALUABLE IN ALERTING US IN A TIMELY FASHION TO SIGNIFICANT ARTICLES OR EDITORIALS IN THE US PRESS BEARING ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE SUMMARY CABLES HAVE PLACED US IN A POSITION TO REQUEST FULL TEXTS OF ITEMS WHICH APPEARED TO BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR OUR WORK HERE.

4. MANY SUCH ITEMS HAVE BEEN OF DIRECT USE TO US HERE IN OUR DAILY CONTACTS WITH BOTH ALLIED AND WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS. PERTINENT RECENT EXAMPLES INCLUDE US PRESS REPORTING AND COMMENTARY ON THE FORMATION OF TWO NEW US COMBAT BRIGADES IN THE FRG, THE NUNN REPORT ON LEVELS OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE, AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON US TROOP LEVELS ABROAD. SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ARE FOLLOWED CLOSELY BOTH BY ALLIED AND WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS HERE, AND HAVE BECOME SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION BOTH WITHIN THE WESTERN AD HOC GROUP IN VIENNA AND IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES.

5. THOUGH FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ARE OF COURSE AVAILABLE TO US, NATO AND WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS DERIVE MOST OF THEIR INFORMATION ON SUCH SUBJECTS FROM THE PRESS. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR US IN DEALING WITH THE INQUIRIES AND CONCERNS OF OUR ALLIES, AND -- MOST IMPORTANTLY -- IN DEALING WITH TACTICAL POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE EAST WITH RESPECT TO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, TO BE AWARE IN A TIMELY FASHION OF THE PUBLIC SOURCES ON WHICH MUCH OF THEIR INFORMATION IS BASED.

6. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN OUR FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH WESTERN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES HERE TO BE FULLY AWARE OF THE TREND OF OPINION IN THE WESTERN, AND PARTICULARLY THE US, PRESS. THIS DELEGATION, AND THE WESTERN AD HOC GROUP GENERALLY, PLACES A HIGH PRIORITY ON DEALINGS WITH THE PRESS. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR WESTERN INTERESTS TO MAINTAIN A RELATIVELY FAVORABLE WESTERN PRESS VIEW OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE MUCH OF THIS EFFORT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE, AN IMPORTANT SHARE OF THE WORK MUST NECESSARILY BE DONE AT THE ACTUAL SITE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. TO PERFORM THIS JOB PROPERLY, THE DELEGATION NEEDS TIMELY INFORMATION ON US PRESS TRENDS.

7. FOR THE REASONS CITED, WE HAVE FOUND THE DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS SUMMARY CABLES TO BE AN INVALUABLE TO OUR WORK HERE. WE STRONGLY URGE

THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REINSTATE
THIS CABLE SERVICE IMMEDIATELY.RESOR

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